

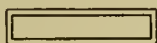
Brixworth Rural District Council



*Report of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year ending
31st December, 1937*

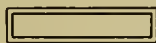


Brixworth Rural District Council



*Report of the
Medical Officer of Health*

*for the year ending
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BRIXWORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year ending 31st December, 1937

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health and that of the Sanitary Inspector. I am happy to express my gratitude to members of the Council and of the staff for their help and interest throughout the year.

Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health	Ivor J. Jones, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Sanitary Inspector	Albert Brewer, L.M.I.A.A., F.I.A.S., C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
Assistant Sanitary Inspectors	George H. Wills, A.I.A.S., L.I.O.B. resigned 30th June, 1937. R. S. Linley. B. Little appointed 14th July, 1937.
Housing Inspector	E. F. Goulding.

The Medical Officer of Health holds a full time public health appointment, combining with his duties to this Council, those of Medical Officer of Health to Brackley Town Council, and to the Brackley Rural District Council, and Assistant Medical Officer and Assistant School Medical Officer to the Northamptonshire County Council. This combined appointment allows the Medical Officer to be concerned with that part of the public health administration of the District for which the County Council is responsible, and includes :—

Examination of infants and toddlers at three infant Welfare Centres : Brixworth, Moulton and Welford.

Medical inspection (including mental tests) of children attending the public elementary schools.

Supervision of dairies and cowsheds concerned in the production and distribution of " Accredited " Milk.

Supervision of rivers and streams, under the Rivers Pollution Prevention Acts.

The Sanitary Inspector is also the Surveyor and Architect to the Council. He and his two assistants prepare plans and estimates and supervise the carrying out of all works on behalf of the local authority, and also supervise all building in the District.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the District.

Area	82,944 acres
Resident population (Registrar General's estimate for mid 1937)	14,990
Number of inhabited houses end of 1937 (according to Rate Books)	5,354
Rateable Value 1/4/37	£81,722
Sum represented by 1d. rate	£305 3s. 11d.

The District is almost entirely rural in character, except in proximity to the County Borough of Northampton where the development in residential property continues. Agriculture and dairy farming are the main industries, and ironstone quarrying gives employment to a number of men.

Vital Statistics.

				Rate per 1,000.	
	Total.	Male.	Female.	Brixworth R.D.C.	England and Wales.
Live Births—	208	111	97	13.9	14.9
Legitimate	200	107	93		
Illegitimate	8	4	4		
Stillbirths	9	6	3	41.5	(Rate per 1,000 total live and still-births)
Deaths	193	101	92	12.9	12.4
Deaths from puerperal causes NIL.					

Death rate of Infants (under one year of age) :—

	Brixworth R.D.	England and Wales.	
All infants per 1,000 live births	58	58	
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	50		
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	250		
	Total.	Male.	Female.
Deaths from cancer (all ages)	31	14	17
Deaths from measles (all ages) ..	NIL.	—	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	1	1	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1	1	—

Adjusted Death Rate.

	Brixworth R.D.	England and Wales.
1937	10.3	12.4
1936	11.5	12.1
1935	11.0	11.7

The “ Adjusted Death Rate ” is obtained by applying to the crude death rate an Areal Comparability Factor which has been estimated as 0.80 for this District. This factor corrects the difference in the age and sex distribution of the population of the District from the distribution of the population of England and Wales.

The registered causes of death were as follows :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Whooping Cough	1	0	1
Diphtheria	0	1	1
Influenza	5	2	7
Encephalitis lethargica ..	1	0	1
Cerebro-spinal fever	0	1	1
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1	4	5
Other tuberculosis	1	1	2
Cancer	14	17	31
Diabetes	0	3	3
Cerebral haemorrhage, etc. ..	5	6	11
Heart disease	26	24	50
Aneurysm	2	0	2
Other circulatory diseases ..	7	1	8
Bronchitis	2	3	5
Pneumonia (all forms) ..	5	4	9
Other respiratory diseases ..	1	1	2

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Diarrhoea under 2 years ..	1	0	1
Appendicitis	1	0	1
Cirrhosis of liver	0	1	1
Other digestive diseases ..	0	1	1
Acute and chronic nephritis ..	4	2	6
Congenital debility, premature birth, etc.	3	2	5
Senility	2	6	8
Suicide	1	2	3
Other violence	5	2	7
Other defined diseases ..	12	5	17
Ill defined or not known ..	1	3	4
All causes	101	92	193

Heart diseases and Cancer were the commonest causes of death.

(a) Laboratory Facilities. Swabs from suspected cases of diphtheria are examined by the Pathologist of the Northampton General Hospital. A duplicate report on each swab is sent to the Medical Officer of Health. Specimens of sputum from patients suspected of suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis are examined free of charge for medical practitioners by the Clinical Tuberculosis Officer of the County Council.

(b) Ambulance Facilities. During the year arrangements were made with the Daventry Rural District Council for their motor ambulance stationed at the Staverton Isolation Hospital to be used for the transport of patients living in this district suffering from infectious disease to the Staverton Isolation Hospital. A nurse accompanies the ambulance.

(c) Nursing in the Home. Under an agreement between the County Council and the County Nursing Association, the services of a nurse may be obtained for the home nursing of patients suffering from:—puerperal fever, puerperal pyrexia, ophthalmia neonatorum, whooping cough, diaorrhoea in young children, polio-myelitis, measles and cerebro-spinal fever.

(d) Treatment Centres and Clinics. The following centres and clinics are available to residents in the District.

- i. Ante Natal Clinics. These are held periodically in Northampton. A lady medical officer and a health visitor both appointed by the County Council give advice and arrange for treatment when necessary.
- ii. Birth Control Clinic. Advice may be obtained at this clinic in Northampton by women in whom pregnancy is contra indicated on account of medical reasons.

- iii. Dental Clinics. Dental treatment and advice is available for all children attending public elementary schools in the area. Arrangements can also be made in certain cases for the treatment of pre-school children and expectant mothers.
- iv. Infant Welfare Centres. Centres are held monthly at Brixworth, Cold Ashby and Moulton. The Medical Officer of Health is the Medical Officer to these three centres and attends each centre once every month.
- v. Orthopaedic Clinic. A clinic is held daily under the auspices of the Manfield Orthopaedic Hospital, Northampton, where patients with orthopaedic defects may receive treatment and be kept under supervision.
- vi. Tuberculosis Dispensaries. The Clinical Tuberculosis Officer of the County Council attends the Northampton Dispensary twice weekly. He attends once weekly at Kettering and Wellingborough. Patients living in this District suspected of suffering from tuberculosis may be seen at any of these Dispensaries. The Clinical Tuberculosis Officer who is a specialist officer is willing to act in a consultative capacity with any medical practitioner, and to visit the patient at home when necessary.
- vii. Venereal Disease Clinic. A clinic for advice on and treatment of Venereal Diseases is held daily at the Northampton General Hospital. There is no charge to patients and strict secrecy is maintained.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

WATER.

The scheme for supplying water from Northampton to Boughton and Brixworth was the subject of a Public Inquiry held on 26th August, 1937, and it is hoped that the works of laying mains will commence shortly.

A scheme for the re-piping of the existing mains in Chapel Brampton has been the subject of careful consideration by the Council.

Numerous samples of water have been taken in the following parishes during the year and the results are as follows :—

BRIXWORTH.

On 6th April, 1937, a sample was taken from the Church Street supply and the same was found to be fit for domestic purposes.

On the same day a further sample was taken from the Cross Hill supply and this too was found to be fit for domestic purposes, one further sample was taken on this date from the Clay Hill supply and here again there was no evidence that the supply was unfit for domestic purposes. A sample was taken from the pump facing Hel Yard on the same date, however, and the resultant examination proved that it was unfit for domestic purposes.

On 28th May a sample of the water used by the school was taken and although pollution had occurred it was presumably due to vegetation and was harmless.

BOUGHTON.

On the 26th January two samples were taken at Boughton, one of these was from the Elkington Spring and the other from the Grotto Spring, and although the number of colonies growing on agar at 22°C was somewhat high it was thought that there was no pollution of sewage origin.

HANNINGTON.

On 26th January a sample was taken from the new well on the New Council Housing Site and owing to the presence of presumptive *Bact. coli* in 1/10c.c. it was deemed advisable to take further samples before a definite conclusion as to whether the water was fit for domestic purposes was arrived at.

A further sample was taken from the well on the 9th March and the result showed that the water was not really satisfactory for a public water supply.

OLD.

Two samples were taken at Old on the 15th June, 1937, and in neither case was it possible to say that the samples were fit for domestic purposes.

PITSFORD.

On 26th January a sample was taken at the new Council Housing Site at Pitsford and the result was not satisfactory, a further sample, was therefore taken on the 9th March, 1937, and the water was found to be fit for domestic purposes.

SPRATTON.

On 6th April, 1937, a sample was taken from a well on the new housing site at Spratton and it was found to be unfit for domestic

purposes. On the 15th June another sample was taken from a different well but here again the water although perhaps a better sample than the previous one, was still of a doubtful character and not fit for domestic purposes.

WALGRAVE.

On 8th January, 1937, samples were taken here from the three wells on the new housing site. In each case the water was suspicious. Further samples were taken on the 26th January, and again the water was so doubtful that it was necessary to advise the taking of further samples before the same was used for domestic purposes. Again on March 9th three samples were taken but the results were not satisfactory for public drinking supplies. June 15th saw the taking of further samples but these too were of a doubtful character.

SEWERAGE. The Council have re-considered the scheme for the re-sewering of East Farndon and instructions have been given for a comprehensive scheme to be formulated and sent to the Ministry of Health.

HOLLOWELL.

Owing to complaints being received regarding the pollution of the River Stowe at Hollowell the Council has given instructions for a comprehensive sewerage scheme to be prepared and forwarded to the Ministry.

BOUGHTON.

A preliminary scheme for sewerage that part of Boughton, between the village and Boughton Green, has been submitted to the Council and deferred for the time being.

MOULTON AND OVERSTONE (VALLEY SEWERAGE SCHEME.)

The above sewerage scheme, *i.e.*, a joint scheme between the Northampton Rural District Council and this Council was the subject of a Public Inquiry in July, 1937. This sewer will allow for extension to that part of Moulton not already sewered and the village of Overstone,

BRIXWORTH.

Two settling tanks have been constructed on the existing filtration area at Brixworth.

There are still many improvements to be carried out to the existing sewage work in the undermentioned parishes, viz :—
Arthingworth, Boughton, Church and Chapel Brampton, Brington, Clipston, Creaton, East Haddon, Great Oxendon, Hannington, Harlestone (requires complete new works), Holcot, Holdenby, Kelmarsh, Maidwell, Moulton, Old, Overstone, Pitsford, Ravensthorpe, Scaldwell and Walgrave.

COTTESBROOKE.

The Installation at Cottesbrooke has been completely overhauled, new irrigators have been fitted and the filtering media renewed.

COLD ASHBY, GUILSBOROUGH AND THORNBY.

In connection with the Northampton Borough Council's water undertaking, to prevent pollution of the water in the reservoir now being constructed at Hollowell, the outfall works at Cold Ashby and Guilsborough, with an extension to Thornby, have been connected with a new sewer and disposal works just below Hollowell Village.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

All works of sewage and sewage disposal contemplated by the Council, and those suggested under the last preceding sub-head would do much to check the pollution of rivers and streams in this area.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Where Public sewers exist most of the houses have water closets which are hand flushed, except where there is a piped water supply, *e.g.*, part of Moulton and Boughton. In these two parishes flushing apparatus is insisted upon.

PUBLIC CLEANSING (SPECIAL REFERENCE TO REFUSE COLLECTION).

On 10th February, 1937, a comprehensive scheme for the scavenging of the District of household refuse, was submitted to the appropriate Committee. The scheme provided for the collection and disposal of refuse, *i.e.*, bottles, tins, ashes, etc., but NOT night-soil, garden or trade refuse.

COLLECTION.

It was recommended that lorries having drivers, with or without assistance, should be employed to do the collecting. All refuse has to be placed in a convenient position for easy loading on to lorries. It was further recommended that the collection should be made regularly on fixed days, monthly. A scheme whereby every parish had such a collection was worked out at a later date when the Council had decided that one Contractor should do the work for the whole of the District.

DISPOSAL.

It was recommended too that the best method for disposing of the refuse was to have controlled tips. There are seven controlled tips and the lists given below show the parishes served by each tip :—

Clipston.	Harlestone.	Naseby.	
Arthingworth	Brington (Althorp	Cold Ashby	
Clipston	and Nobottle)	Hazelbeach	
East Farndon	Chapel Brampton	Naseby	
Kelmarsh	Church Brampton	Thornby	
Oxendon	East Haddon		
Marston Trussell	Harlestone		
Sibbertoft	Holdenby		
Wold.	Ravensthorpe.	Welford.	Northampton.
Brixworth	Creton	Sulby	Boughton
Draughton	Cottesbrooke	Welford	Moulton
Hannington	Guilsborough		
Holcot	Hollowell		
Lampport	Ravensthorpe (Coton)		
Pitsford	Spratton		
Scaldwell			
Walgrave			
Wold			

In every case except the one at Northampton my Council is responsible for the condition of the tip, and after each day's work a layer of soil is placed on the refuse and the sides of the tip battered off at an angle of 45° to prevent any nuisance arising from the same and also to prevent rats frequenting them.

On 25th May, 1937, tenders were invited for the work and a Contract was later entered into. The scheme is now working satisfactorily.

The scheme serves 39 parishes with an estimated population of about 15,000, and 4,700 houses. The estimated tonnage to be dealt with per annum is about 3,000.

CESSPOOLS, SEPTIC TANKS, ETC.

It is foreseen that difficulty will arise in the future owing to the large number of these tanks being constructed to houses especially at Moulton. If the construction of the sewer, particularly in Kettering Road, is delayed much longer, grave nuisances may occur.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Numerous inspections (details of which are shown in the tabulated report), have been made throughout the District.

SHOPS.

No action has been taken under the provision of the Shops Act, 1934, and no complaints have been received during the year.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action has been taken nor have any complaints been received during the year.

There are no factories in the area which are likely to cause a nuisance.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are neither public nor privately owned swimming baths or pools open to the public in the district.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

One complaint of bed bugs was received during the year and the bedding in this case was destroyed and the room fumigated.

HOUSING.

Number of Houses measured for Overcrowding, 424

Number of visits (during 1937) :

244 inspections for individual unfit houses.

15 visits to Clearance Areas.

1015 visits for repairs.

264 building inspections by private enterprise.

3992 visits to Council Houses in course of erection.

BUILDING AND PROVISION OF NEW HOUSES.

The number of houses erected during the year by the Council was 68 and 76 more were commenced. The estimated number of Council Houses to be erected during 1938 is 50, and the estimated number of houses that may be erected by private enterprise during the year is 100.

64 plans were submitted and reported upon, namely 90 houses, 31 alterations and 8 other buildings. The number of houses passed in 1937 was 64 and the number completed (including those brought forward from 1936) was 92. The number of houses passed in 1937, but not completed was 24.

 STATISTICS FOR 1937.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :—
 - 1 (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (Under Public Health and Housing Acts) 708
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .. 6,054
 - 2 (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above), which were inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 157
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .. 157
 - 3 Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 27
 - 4 Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation NIL
2. Remedy of defects during the year without the service of Formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or their Officers	2
---	---

3. Action under statutory powers during the year :—

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs :— .. NIL

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after the service of formal notices :—

(a) By Owners NIL

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners NIL

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 2

(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices

(a) By Owners 2

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners NIL

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of Housing Acts, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .. 12

(2) Number of Dwelling Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 10

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made NIL

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit NIL

4. Housing Act, 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding :—

(a) (i) Number of dwelling houses overerowed at the end of the year 7

(ii) Number of families therein 7

(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein 38½

(b) Number of new cases of overerowding reported during the year NIL

(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	3
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ..	20
(d) Any other particulars with respect to Overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it advisable to report	
Total number of premises visited	6,277
Total number of defects or nuisances discovered	159
Total number of complaints received	47
Total number of inspections for all purposes	6,324
Total number of summonses issued	NIL
Total number of notices served Formal 53. Informal 2 ..	55
Total number of convictions obtained	NIL

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

Numerous inspections have been made for cleanliness and alterations to existing cowsheds. 74 samples of Tuberculin Tested Milk have been taken and submitted to the County Council for analysis. Of the above number 7 were not up to the required standard.

SLAUGHTERHOUSE AND MEAT INSPECTION.

Your Sanitary Inspector is also the Meat Inspector for the District. There are 25 slaughterhouses in the District. All Registered Butchers have regular days upon which they carry out their Slaughtering, whilst slaughtering forms are insisted upon from the Licenced butchers.

Under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, the Council during the year registered 41 slaughtermen.

Inspections are made of all slaughterhouses and during the year 2 sheep were condemned.

BAKEHOUSES.

During the year one adverse report was received from H.M. Inspector and the matter was dealt with.

Isolation hospital accommodation is available only for cases of scarlet fever and diphtheria. It is probable that the removal to hospital of scarlet fever cases from a District such as this does not result in fewer cases of scarlet fever occurring, for it is possible that patients returning home from hospital cured clinically of scarlet fever may spread more infection than if they had been isolated at home. It is impossible to control the spread of an epidemic of scarlet fever merely by the isolation in hospital of all cases diagnosed as scarlet fever, for the disease may continue to be spread by unrecognised cases, patients with acute tonsillitis and carriers. Isolation hospital accommodation should be reserved for severe cases of scarlet fever and for cases which cannot be isolated at home ; but it should be available for cases of diphtheria and for severe cases of measles and whooping cough, for these diseases cause greater mortality than does scarlet fever, and require skilled nursing.

Eight cases of scarlet fever were notified in boys living in a preparatory school. All of these cases were isolated in hospital. All the inhabitants of the school were examined in an attempt to discover unrecognised cases, but it was not considered necessary to search for carriers and people susceptible to scarlet fever.

Twenty cases of diphtheria came from Brixworth. The child who died of diphtheria was also suffering from valvular disease of the heart. Diphtheria anti-toxin is kept in the Council Offices and is available to medical practitioners for the treatment of patients and contacts living in the District. No charge has been made for this anti-toxin.

It is possible to immunise those who are susceptible to diphtheria against the disease and it was suggested that the Council should sponsor a scheme for the inhabitants of the District. However, if such a scheme is to be a success, it is important that a large proportion of the susceptible population should avail themselves of it, otherwise it is possible that the prevalence of the disease amongst the susceptible population would be increased. Such schemes have been successful in other parts of the Country. Success depends mainly on the enthusiasm and co-operation of the whole District.

The elementary schools at Welford were closed from the 5th April until the 16th owing to an epidemic of measles.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

NOTIFICATION IN AGE GROUPS.

Disease	Under 1 year	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65 and over	Total	Removed to Hospital.	Deaths.
Smallpox ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	1	1	3	5	9	—	2	1	1	—	23	22	—
Diphtheria ..	—	—	3	—	2	9	9	1	3	—	—	—	27	26	1
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	2	5	—	—
Other notifiable diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

NOTIFICATIONS EACH MONTH.

	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria.	Puerperal Fever.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Pneumonia
January	2	3	—	—	3
February	—	3	—	—	—
March	1	2	—	—	—
April	—	1	—	—	—
May	3	1	—	—	1
June	1	1	—	—	1
July	2	6	—	—	—
August	5	5	1	—	—
September	—	—	—	1	—
October	2	1	—	—	—
November	3	4	—	—	—
December	4	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	23	27	1	1	5

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases and mortality during 1937.

	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory	Non-Respiratory	Respiratory	Non-Respiratory	Respiratory	Non-Respiratory	Respiratory	Non-Respiratory
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	—	—	—	—				
1—	—	—	—	—				
5—	1	—	1	2				
15—	1	1	1	—				
25—	3	2	—	—				
35—	2	2	—	—				
45—	—	1	1	—				
55—	1	2	—	—				
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—				
TOTAL	8	8	3	2	1	4	1	1

IVOR J. JONES.

June, 1938.

